

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for supporting wireless communications, the method comprising:

~~allocating a first channel to support message transmissions from a base station to a field unit;~~

~~allocating a second channel to support message transmissions from the field unit to the base station;~~

~~assigning physical slots in the first and second channel for message transmissions between the base station and the field unit;~~

assigning a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes to ~~the~~ a field unit;

transmitting an indication of the plurality of PN codes to the field unit;

receiving a first message in at least one ~~of the~~ physical slot[[s]], wherein the first message includes one of the plurality of PN codes;

analyzing the one of the plurality of PN codes to determine a timing adjustment to be made at the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station; and

transmitting a second message to the field unit that includes the timing adjustment ~~to the field unit~~.

2. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of PN codes comprises a plurality of symbols.

8. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is ~~a multi-bit value that~~ indicates an amount to advance or retard timing.

12. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the timing adjustment is a single bit.

16. – 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A base station operable in a wireless communication network, ~~wherein a first channel supports communication from the base station to a field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station,~~ the base station comprising:

a transmitter configured to transmit an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes to ~~the~~ a field unit; and

a receiver configured to receive a message containing a PN code from a field unit to determine a timing adjustment to be made at the field unit to synchronize the field unit with the base station;

wherein the transmitter is further configured to transmit a feedback message to the field unit containing the timing adjustment ~~to the field unit~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim 30, wherein a first channel supports communication from the base station to a field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station and the first and second channel comprise physical slots.

32. (Previously Presented) The base station of claim 30, wherein the receiver is configured to receive the message containing the PN code over a plurality of symbols.

33. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim 33, wherein the timing adjustment ~~is a multi-bit value indicating~~ indicates an amount to advance or retard timing.

34. (Currently Amended) A field unit operable in a wireless communication network, ~~wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station,~~ the field unit comprising:

a receiver configured to receive an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes from ~~the~~ a base station; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a PN code selected from the plurality of PN codes received from the base station;

wherein the receiver is further configured to receive a feedback message from the base station containing a timing adjustment based on the transmitted PN code ~~from the base station.~~

35. (Currently Amended) The field unit of claim 34, wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station and the first and second channel comprise physical slots.

36. (Previously Presented) The field unit of claim 34, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the PN code over a plurality of symbols.

37. (Currently Amended) The field unit of claim 34, wherein the timing adjustment ~~is a multi-bit value indicating~~ indicates an amount to advance or retard timing.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a field unit operable in a wireless communication network, ~~wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station,~~ the method comprising:

receiving an indication of a plurality of pseudorandom noise (PN) codes from ~~the~~ a base station;

selecting a PN code from the plurality of PN codes received from the base station;

transmitting the selected PN code to the base station; and

receiving a message from the base station containing a timing adjustment based on the transmitted selected PN code ~~from the base station~~.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:
adjusting transmission timing based on the timing adjustment.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein a first channel supports communication from a base station to the field unit and a second channel supports communication from the field unit to the base station and the first and second channel comprise physical slots.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit the selected PN code over a plurality of symbols.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the timing adjustment ~~is a multi-bit value indicating~~ indicates an amount to advance or retard timing.